
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin Facts and Figures Reference Book

Containing a compilation of statistical information of general
organizational interest and application

As of December 15, 2004

With Appendices

Published by
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
Department of Administration
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Your comments and suggestions on future editions are welcome. Please fax them to (715) 799-4525, e-mail them to rduquain@mitw.org, or mail them to Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Attn: Department of Administration, P.O. Box 910, W2908 Tribal Office Loop Road, Keshena, WI 54135.

This publication has been made possible with the assistance and support provided by the Menominee Tribal Legislature, departments and programs that the Department of Administration serves, and the numerous contributions of the many fine men and women employed by the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin.

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FORWARD

The purpose of this publication is to provide departments of the Menominee Indian Tribe with a more accessible and accurate collection of statistics that pertain to the Reservation and its people. This compilation of data includes population, Tribal enrollment, income, labor force, housing, education, crime, AODA, utilities, and health related issues. The information can be used by Tribal department directors to evaluate and enhance existing services, and assist directors and program managers in the preparation of grant applications. General information about the Reservation, its natural resources, climate, governmental structure and a collection of historical documents is also included.

Although the majority of the information from this document was obtained from the 2000 decennial census, Wisconsin state departments, Tribal departments and numerous other sources were also used. We hope to incorporate more local sources in future editions.

In the 2000 Census, the Census Bureau counted three different groups of numbers that pertain to the Reservation. The first is Menominee County. This includes all of the land within the exterior boundaries of the County (both trust and fee simple land). The second was the Menominee Reservation. This includes only Trust land within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation and does not include the part of the Reservation in Shawano County known as Middle Village. In order to make the information supplied in this document as accurate as possible, the sum of Menominee County and Middle Village were used for the total count of the Menominee Reservation.

The data was analyzed and summarized using a variety of graphs and charts. The population numbers are broken down into categories including communities, age, race, and future projections. It was determined that the population of the Reservation has steadily increased with the peak age group under the age of twenty.

Birth and death statistics were computed using the numbers compiled from 1999-2003 based on age. Causes of death were ranked based on the age of the individual. Percentages of the number of births and birth trends were compared to State of Wisconsin averages.

The economic indicators on the Reservation have shown a steady increase but are still well below the state and national averages. Comparisons of income characteristics were looked at from 1979, 1989, and 1999. Median household income was examined based on race and community. The other indicators that were compared were poverty and unemployment.

The housing stock on the Reservation has improved slightly from 1990 to 2000. More affordable homes have been constructed and are now owned by individual Tribal members. This is a step in the right direction, but there are still many individuals who live in public housing.

Finally, the topic of education was analyzed with an emphasis on high school aged individuals. Attendance was looked at for the Tribal School, Menominee Indian School District, NAES College and the College of the Menominee Nation. Also, reports were evaluated that summarized test scores as well as graduation rates.

The Department of Administration would like to thank everyone who made contributions to the success of this book, with a special thanks to the Menominee Tribal Legislature;

Chairperson Joan Delabreau
Vice Chair Laurie Boivin
Secretary Gary Besaw
Ann Marie Johnson
Laurie Reiter
Anthony Waupochick Sr.
Michael Chapman
Stephanie Awonohpay
Theodore Warrington

If there is information that you would like to see added to this document or if you have any questions, please contact the Menominee Department of Administration at (715) 799-5154. Your input would be appreciated.

HISTORY

The Menominee Indians are the oldest continuous residents of Wisconsin. The Menominee are an Algonquin speaking nation and the name "O-MAEQ-NO-MIN-NI-WUK" means "WILD RICE PEOPLE". Long ago, the French called the Menominee the "Folle Avoine Nation" or the "Nation of the Wild Oats", because of the dependence on the Wild Rice. It was said that when the Menominee entered an area the Wild Rice followed and when they left the area, the Wild Rice passed.

The Menominee once occupied over 10 million acres of land which is now central and mid-eastern Wisconsin and part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (see appendix B). The boundaries of their land holdings were north to the Escanaba River, south to the Milwaukee River, including the Door Peninsula and west to the Mississippi River. But, through a series of treaties the Menominee were forced to cede most of their land, with the migrating Oneida and Stockbridge-Munsee tribes receiving ceded Menominee lands. In 1854, the Wolf River Treaty was signed, in this treaty the Menominees were granted 12 townships "for a home, to be held as Indian lands are held, that tract of Country lying upon the Wolf River," to be used as a Reservation and home.

Creation Story

According to early records, the Menominee lived in villages at the mouth of the Menominee River, and it was here the tribe had its beginning. According to the creation story of the Menominee, the Great Bear emerged from the ground and took human form. Being alone, he called an Eagle flying high above to be his brother and descending, it took the form of a human and an Indian. As the two journeyed up the river they met a beaver and made her their sister. The Bear and the Eagle stood on the banks of the river and saw a stranger, the Sturgeon who was adopted by the Bear as a younger brother and a servant. The Elk was also adopted by the Eagle as a younger brother and water carrier. At another time, the Bear was going up the Wisconsin River and became fatigued and sat down to rest near a waterfall. From beneath the waterfall

emerged a Wolf. While asking the Bear why he was there, the Crane came by. Bear called to him and said, "Crane, carry me to my people at the head of the river, and I will take you as my younger brother." As Crane was taking Bear, Wolf called out to Bear saying, "Bear take me also as a younger brother, for I am alone." The Eagle decided to visit the Bear village and asked the Bear to join them. They promised to give corn and fire in return for wild rice which was the property of the Bear and the Sturgeon. From this time on, the families united into an organized body for mutual benefit known as the clan system.

Through this clan system, each clan was given a special expertise in a specific area.

Bear Clan: speakers and keeper of the law

Eagle/Thunder Clan: freedom and justice

Moose Clan: community or individual security

Crane Clan: architecture, construction and art

Wolf Clan: hunting and gathering

The clan structure of the Menominee people consists of 34 clans organized into five main phratries or subdivisions. People were known and referred to by the clan they were born into, that is their father's clan. Each phratry consists of a principal clan and a number of member clans:

Owas'sse we'dishi'anun (Bear Phratry)

Owa'sse (Bear) principal clan

Kita'mi (Porcupine)

Miqka'no (Turtle)

Mikek' (Otter)

Noma'eu (Sturgeon)

Naku'ti (Sunfish)

Piwat'inot (Beaver)

O'sass (Muskrat)

Mud Turtle

Ina'maqki'u wi'dishi'anun (Eagle Phratry)

Kine'u (Golden Eagle) principal clan

Kaka'ke (Crow)

Inaq'tek (Raven)

Maq'kwoka'ni (Red-tail hawk)

Pinash'iu (Bald Eagle)

Ke'shewa'toshe (Sparrow Hawk)

Pe'kike'kune (Winter Hawk)

Shawan'nani (Fork Tail Hawk)

Pakesh'tsheke'u (Swift Flying Hawk)

Fish Hawk

Moqwai'owi'dishi'anun (Wolf Phratry)

Moqwai'o (Wolf) principal clan

Anam' (Dog)

Moqwai'owi'dishi'anun(continued)

Apaehsos (White Tail Deer)

Wakoh (Fox)

Pine Squirrel

Ota'tshia wi'dishi'anun (Crane Phratry)

Ota'tshia (Crane) principal clan

Shakshak'eu (Great Blue Heron)

Os'se (Old Squaw Duck)

O'kawa'siku (Coot)

Loon

Turkey Buzzard

Mo's wi'dishi'anun (Moose Phratry)

Mo's (Moose) principal clan

Oma'skos (Elk)

Waba'shiu (Marten)

Wu'tshik (Fisher)

Racoon

Subsistence

The Menominee lived by hunting, fishing and gathering. The abundant wild rice was the staple food which was augmented by corn, beans and squash, grown in small gardens. Some of the food was dried in the sun for winter use. Boiling and roasting were the common methods of cooking. Maple sugar and syrup was used as sweeteners and flavorings.

Treaty era

In 1848 Tribal Chiefs were coerced into signing a treaty at Lake Poygan selling the last 4.5 million acres of Menominee land. They were told, by the Indian Agent, if they refused the government would take the land without paying for it and they would be moved to Crow Wing whether or not they sold the land. The Chiefs were offered \$350,000 plus they would be given 600,000 acres in Crow Wing country in Minnesota. At the request of the government, eleven Chiefs, headed by Chief Oshkosh, agreed to make the trip to look the area over. When they returned they immediately began to push for new terms to the 1848 Treaty, they refused to move their people to what they called "hostile" country. The Tribe sent eight Chiefs to Washington to meet with President Fillmore. As a result of this meeting, the Menominee were allowed to reside in Wisconsin for an extra year. This gave them the time needed to obtain another treaty

granting them the right to remain in Wisconsin. In October 1852, the Tribe was granted permission to move to the present area that would become Today's Reservation. (Menominee Indian Reservation Historical Review)

The present Menominee Reservation was established in 1854 in the Wolf River treaty with the United States Government. The Treaty relinquished the 600,000 acres in Minnesota, for 276,480 acres of their original land in Wisconsin. In addition to the original lands lost to non-Indians, two townships of the original Reservation went to the Stockbridge-Munsee Indians an emigrant tribe from the east. (See a listing of the treaties and land cessions listed in appendix A&B).

The U.S. Government focused on efforts to convert the Menominee to agrarians. However, the Menominees were more interested in logging for their economic base. They obtained permission from Washington to conduct their own commercial lumbering operation in 1871. As operations increased, they opened a new saw mill in 1886 that had the capacity to produce 15,000 board feet of lumber per day. By 1890, the Menominees provided a hospital, trade school, police and judicial system and shared a small per capita payment from their lumbering profits. This prosperity established the Menominee as one of the more economically progressive Indian Tribes in the U.S. at the turn of the century.

Termination

In 1954, exactly 100 years after the present reservation was established, the U.S. Congress passed the Termination Act (Public Law 108) which was effective on April 30, 1961. This Act abolished the Menominee Reservation and eliminated the Menominee Indian identity. This was an experiment to force tribes to join the mainstream of American Society as an assimilation attempt. The Menominee were singled out for termination because the tribe was self-sufficient and progressive in the eyes of the federal government. The once proud Menominee people were reduced to severe poverty. They lost their tribal land and assets and were effectively prevented from any efforts toward self-determination. On July 3, 1959 Governor Gaylord Nelson signed a law making Menominee County the state's 72nd County.

As a result of the Termination Act, a two part plan came into effect:

1. Formation of the entire reservation into a new county; and
2. Ownership of assets by the Menominee with the operation under a private management trust agreement.

Trust responsibility was assigned to the Menominee Common Stock and Voting Trust. The General Council elected four Menominee and three non-Menominee to positions on the trust. The Voting Trust, in turn, selected five non-Menominee and four Menominee to a Board of Directors, supervising management of a new corporation called Menominee Enterprises Incorporated (MEI). Corporate decisions on tribal assets could be made with a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors of MEI. Three Hundred and twenty-seven thousand (327,000) shares of corporation stock were transferred to the voting Trust. The Voting Trust then issued Voting Trust certificates, no shares, to tribal members.

On July 9, 1968, MEI and N.E. Isaccson & Associates headed a joint venture to develop recreation land called the "Lakes of the Menominee" project due to excessive tax burdens. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issued a permit to build three dams on the project, the first one to be at the outlet of Wahtoah Lake. In 1969, the DNR authorized the second dam at the outlet at Blacksmith, Little Blacksmith, Spring and Peshtigo Lakes. This prompted formation of a group called DRUMS (Determination of Rights and Unity for Menominee Shareholders) in protest to the sales of the land. The situation caused a split of the Menominee People. Four DRUMS candidates were elected to the Voting Trust and MEI Board of Directors through DRUMS efforts. The new leadership of MEI dissolved their partnership with N.E. Isaccson & Associates and stopped land sales.

Restoration

On April 20, 1972, Wisconsin Senators Proxmire and Nelson introduced Senate Bill No. 3514 in response to the Menominee's ambition to seek reversal of Termination. It was President Nixon who encouraged reversal of the Termination Policy during the summer of 1970. After two and one-half years of congressional testimony, the Restoration Act was passed on December 22, 1973 with widespread bipartisan support.

A nine member interim governing body was elected by the Menominee people. Their responsibility was to implement the Menominee Restoration Act until a Tribal

Legislature was formed on February 9, 1979. The historic Menominee Restoration Act reversed America's trend toward termination, and the Menominee regained their status as a sovereign Indian nation to which the federal government is obligated by treaties, agreements and statutes. The Committee was also responsible for developing the Menominee Constitution and Bylaws, which were ratified on November 12, 1977. A copy of the Menominee Constitution and Bylaws can be obtained by contacting the Menominee Tribal Chairperson's Office.

Today, the Menominee are once again on their way to economic progress through self sufficiency. The Tribe, being a multi-million dollar organization provides employment to its people along with services such as a clinic, police protection, and a Tribal school. Unique adaptability enabled the Menominee to endure the culture clash and to rebuild, relying on cultural and social greatness. This is being accomplished through language programs, drumming groups and pow wows. (Source: *Menominee Demographic Report and Public Relations Department & Menominee Indian Reservation Historical Review*). For more information on the creation and history of the Menominee Tribe contact the Historic Preservation Department.

Official Seal of the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin



The Great Seal of the Menominee Nation was designed by Wayne Wynos Sr. during a contest that was put on by the Tribe in 1979. The seal was adopted by Motion on July 5, 1979 by the Menominee Tribal Legislature as the official seal of the Menominee Indian Tribe. The seal is also located on the Menominee Tribal Flag. The red and black Thunderbird represents a messenger between the Great Spirit, the people, and the environment. The yellow circle represents logging as a major industry that has provided employment and income for the Menominee people. The blue figure represents the ten township boundaries of the Reservation after the 1854 treaty. For years the Tribe shared coterminous boundaries with Menominee County. But, recently the Tribe purchased land located in Shawano County which became part of the Reservation boundary.

Location

The Menominee Indian Reservation is located in the state of Wisconsin about 45 miles northwest of Green Bay. The Reservation shares nearly identical boundaries with the County of Menominee with the area known as Middle Village being the exception. Middle Village is located in Shawano County in the Town of Red Springs. The Reservation borders three counties; Langlade, Oconto, and Shawano. There are five main communities on the Reservation; the two main villages of Neopit and Keshena, two smaller villages of Middle Village and Zoar, and a more scattered community called South Branch.

Land

The Reservation size is 235,523 acres, or approximately 357.96 square miles, and contains roughly 223,500 acres of heavily forested lands, representing the largest single tract of virgin timberland in Wisconsin. The elevation in Keshena is 829 feet above sea level. There are four rivers flowing through the Reservation, the Evergreen, the Oconto, the Red, and the Wolf.

Geology

According to the Menominee County Land and Water Resource Management Plan, Menominee County/Reservation is part of two different drainage basins, the Wolf and Upper Green Bay. The Wolf River, the main river traversing the Reservation, is designated as a component of the national wild and scenic rivers system through the "Wild and Scenic River Act". There are seven sub-watersheds of which four are in the Wolf River Basin and three in the Upper Green Bay Basin. The geology of the Reservation consists mostly of glacial materials deposited on granite bedrock. Some areas in the eastern part of the Reservation have areas of sedimentary rock which is Cambrian and Ordovician sandstone.

Fish

The lakes on the Reservation are inhabited by trout, northern pike, walleye, panfish and even sturgeon in a few lakes. There are a total of 187 streams and rivers, and 53 lakes totaling 2,756 acres of surface area.



The "Land of the Menominee" sign located along the banks of the Wolf River in Keshena. Picture provided by Steve Price Menominee Tribal News.

Forest

There are roughly thirty-three different species of trees within the Menominee Forest. The most common are red pine, white pine, jack pine, aspen, scrub oak, hemlock, and northern hardwoods. There are also hard maple, red oak, basswood, yellow birch, cedar, soft maple, white cherry, white spruce, black cherry, hickory, tamarack, balsam fir, black spruce, and butternut. The forest is also utilized by the Menominee people for such things as berry picking, collecting mushrooms and ginseng, a Chinese herb. The Menominee Forest is managed by the Menominee Tribal Enterprises with an approach known as Sustained Yield Forestry. Sustained Yield Forest practice is a concept requiring that an equal balance be kept between the removal of trees and the growth. During the last 140 years more than 2 and one-half billion board feet of lumber was cut from the Reservation. This amount would be equal to clear cutting the Reservation almost twice over.

(Menominee Tribal Enterprises: The Menominee Forest-Based Sustainable Development Tradition Handbook)

The Menominee Tribal Enterprise (MTE) sawmill is located in the Village of Neopit and the Forestry Center is located in Keshena. According to the 2004 MTE Annual Report, the logging volume produced for the year was 15,130,500 board feet of saw logs and 76,919 cords of pulpwood and boltwood. MTE has a 12 member board of Directors.

Annual Allowable Cut according to 1995 MTE Board

Balsam Fir	59.92 MBF
Tamarack	23.52 MBF
White Spruce	161.22 MBF
Black Spruce	4.39 MBF
Jack Pine	57.35 MBF
Red Pine	630.52 MBF
White Pine	2856.57 MBF
White Cedar	1225.48 MBF
Hemlock	5771.49 MBF
Soft Maple	1260.36 MBF
Hard Maple	4156.61 MBF
Yellow Birch	1287.86 MBF
Paper Birch	336.53 MBF
Hickory	14.53 MBF
Beech	808.76 MBF
White Ash	134.38 MBF
Black Ash	178.39 MBF
Butternut	3.84 MBF
Balsam Poplar	142.75 MBF
Bigtooth Aspen	869.94 MBF
Quaking Aspen	2883.86 MBF
Black Cherry	470.96 MBF
White Oak	76.36 MBF
Scrub Oak	1032.54 MBF
Red Oak	1215.19 MBF
Basswood	1962.50 MBF
Soft Elm	5.02 MBF
Hard Elm	0.65 MBF
TOTAL	27631.49 MBF

MBF-Thousand Board Feet

Wildlife

One of the greatest assets of the Reservation is its vast expanses of undisturbed land and pristine lakes and streams. This creates an ideal habitat for a large number of wildlife and fish. Fishing and hunting are very important to the members of the community as it is used for recreation and also as a means of providing sustenance to families. Tribal members have the ability to hunt white-tailed deer, wild turkey, rabbit, ruffed grouse, black bear, waterfowl and squirrels. There are also fox, mink, beaver, muskrat, coyote, porcupine, raccoon, badgers, and opossum, just to name a few.

Endangered Species

There are three known endangered species and five known threatened species located within the boundaries of the Reservation. The endangered species are the Phlox Moth, the Northern Blue Butterfly, and the Karner Blue Butterfly. The five threatened species are the bald eagle, red-shouldered hawk, Pygmy Snaketail dragonfly, Slippershell Mussel, and the Wood Turtle. According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, an endangered species is an animal or plant species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range and a threatened species is an animal or plant species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. For more information on this topic, you can contact the Menominee Tribal Environmental Department.



Menominee Reservation-Local wildlife habitat. Picture provided by Steve Price, Menominee Tribal News.

Vegetation

The Menominee Reservation is host to a variety of native shrubs grasses, sedges, and wildflowers. One plant this is vital to the ecosystem is the Lupine plant. Lupine is the vital host to the Karner Blue Butterfly which has been identified as an endangered species. Lupine stands about 15" high and blooms from May to June. It has blue and lavender leaves. For a list of native plants species on the Reservation, contact the Menominee County Forester Jeremy Johnson at the Menominee County Courthouse, PO Box 279 Keshena, WI 54135, (715)799-5710.

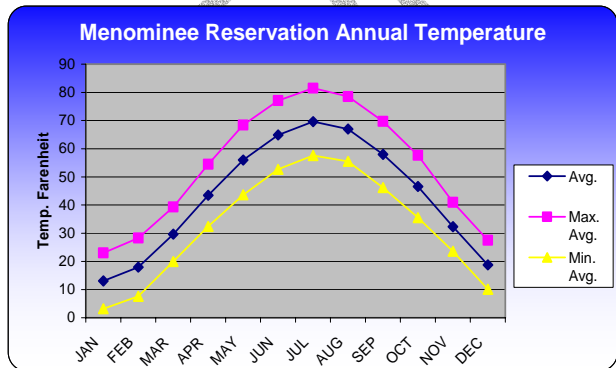
There are also plants on the Reservation that are non-native and are invasive to the native plant life. Some of these include purple loosestrife, garlic mustard, Eurasian milfoil, spotted knapweed, and leafy spurge. These plants tend to take over habitat used by other plant species and have no natural predator.



Garlic Mustard Plant-Picture provided by Jeremy Johnson Menominee County Forester.

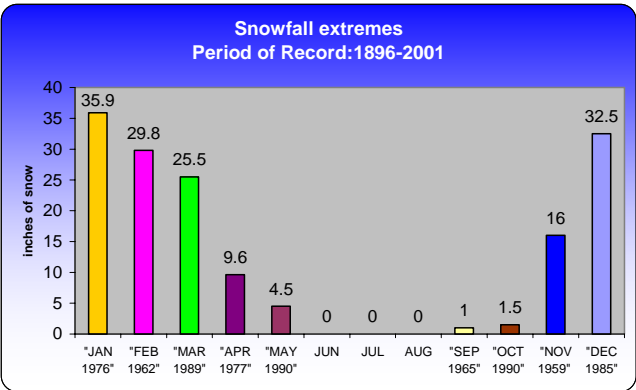
Climate

The climate for the Reservation is very typical of a Midwestern Great Lakes community. Winters are very cold and with snow and summers tend to be moderately warm and moist. According to the State Climatology office, the average daily temperature is 43.1°F. The average maximum temperature is 53.9°F., and the average minimum temperature is 32.3°F.



Source: Wisconsin State Climatology Office

The average annual precipitation is 31.48 inches with the annual snowfall average being 50.8 inches.



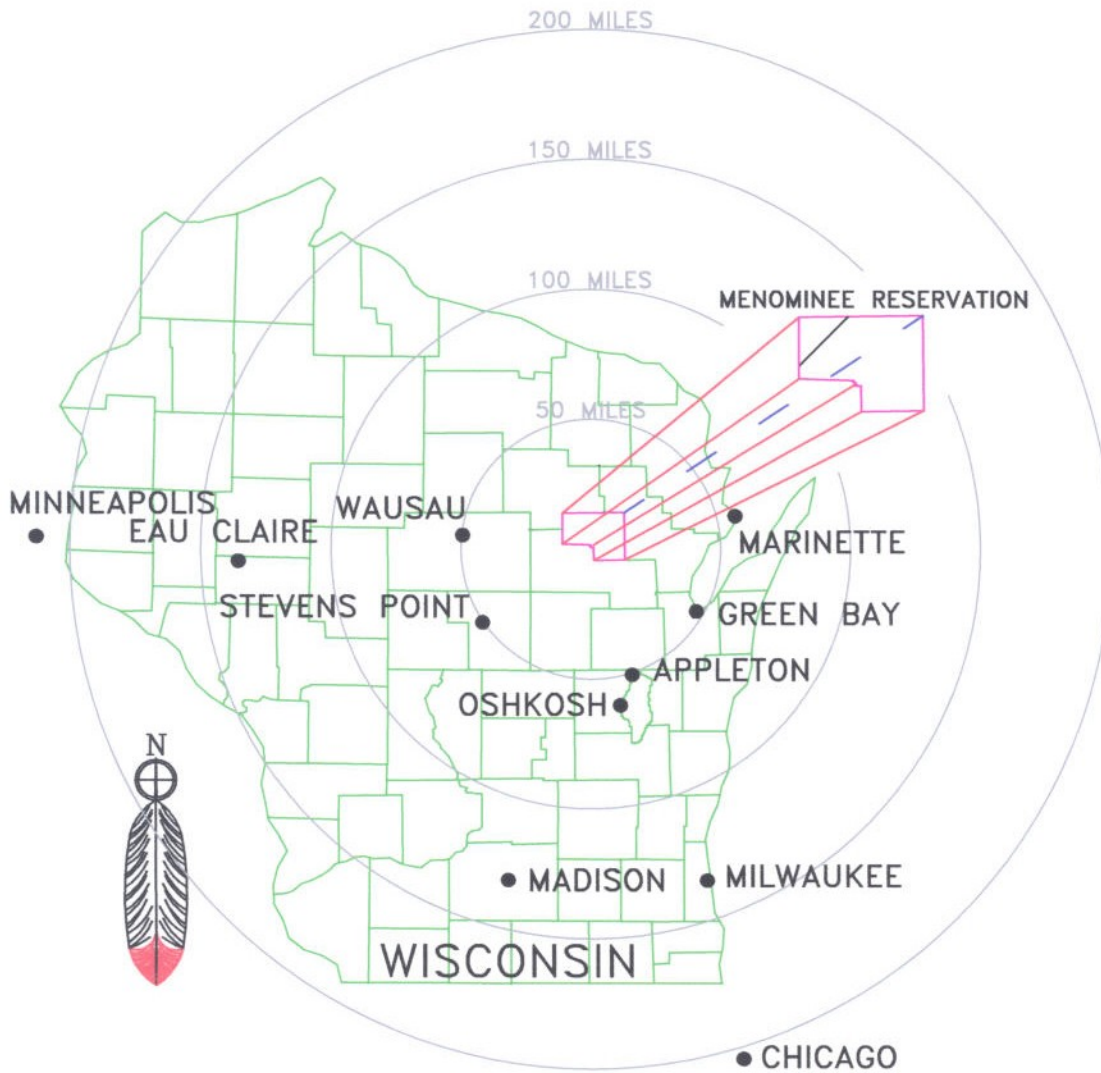
Source: Wisconsin State Climatology Office

Government

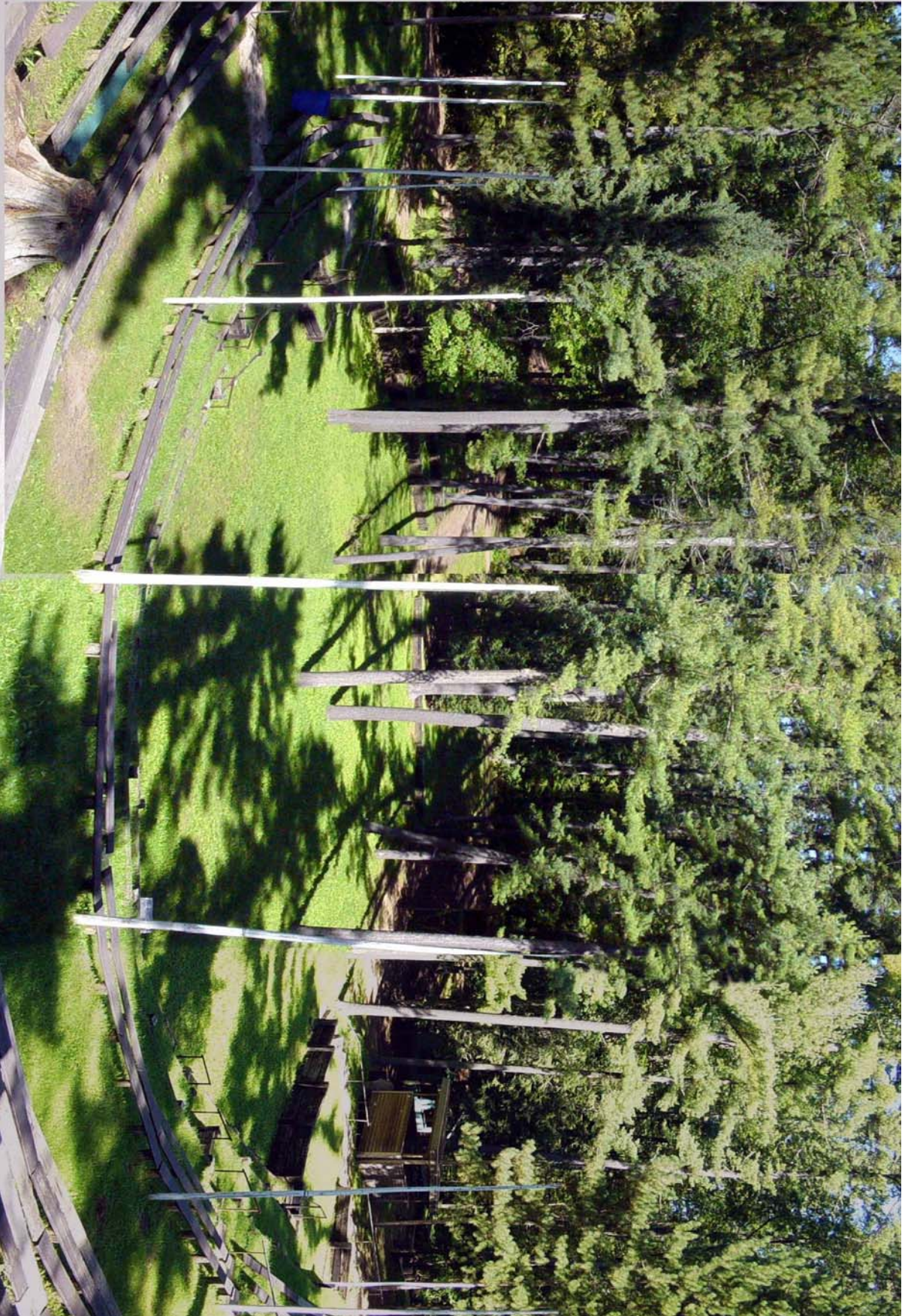
The governing body of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin consists of a nine member legislature that is elected by enrolled Tribal Members. A chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary are elected annually by the governing body.

There is also a separate but equal Tribal judicial system that consists of a lower court and a supreme court. The court system has jurisdiction over all Native Americans within the exterior boundaries of the Menominee Indian Reservation. The lower court consists of a chief justice, two lower court judges and an appeals court judge.

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VICINITY MAP:
MENOMINEE RESERVATION



Woodland bowl – home of the Veterans Pow Wow and the Annual Menominee Pow Wow, is located in the Village of Keshena. Picture provided by Steve Price, Menominee Tribal News.